

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-04 SIG-03 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 SCS-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 INR-10 H-02 /060 R

DRAFTED BY:AF/P:BRUSSELL
APPROVED BY:AF/P:RHOLLIDAY

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O R 232133Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 23, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q. TOM, CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE ZAIRE SITUATION -- PARTICULARLY, DOES THE UNITED STATES AGREE, OR DISAGREE, WITH SOME ACCUSATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLICLY THAT FRANCE IS USING THIS SITUATION TO EXTEND ITS INFLUENCE TO THE MINING BELT OF AFRICA?

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A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THOSE CHARGES.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT A MAN BY THE NAME OF LONNIE GLENN IS PRESUMED DEAD? AND CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE OTHER MISSING AMERICAN?

A. THERE ARE TWO AMERICANS WHO ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR IN ZAIRE: ONE IS AN EMPLOYEE OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN AND HE IS MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD. I CANNOT GIVE YOU HIS NAME. THE OTHER IS A DEPENDENT OF A DUAL NATIONAL BELGIAN-AMERICAN; BUT I BELIEVE THE DEPENDENT WAS BORN IN THE UNITED STATES AND THUS IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. HE IS MISSING, BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, WHETHER HE IS DEAD OR ALIVE. BUT THE EMPLOYEE OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN IS MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD.

Q. IS THE AMERICAN AIRLIFT OVER?

A. OUR SUPPORT FOR THE EVACUATION EFFORT IS COMING TO AN END. WE ARE STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME LIMITED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE BELGIANS CONNECTED WITH THE

EVACUATION EFFORT AND I AM SPEAKING HERE OF ONE OR TWO AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD MOVE MATERIAL AND WOULD NOT ENTER THE COMBAT AREA. WE HAVE REACHED NO DECISION ON THIS QUESTION. IF WE RECEIVE ANY FURTHER REQUESTS, WE WILL EXAMINE THEM ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. THE PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED, WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THE ZAIRIANS, BELGIANS, FRENCH AND OTHERS ABOUT THE LONG TERM SECURITY SITUATION IN ZAIRE. AS YET THIS HAS PRODUCED NO REQUESTS FOR FURTHER U.S. ASSISTANCE. SHOULD SUCH REQUEST BE FORTHCOMING, ANY U.S. RESPONSE WOULD BE THE PRODUCT OF CAREFUL STUDY IN LIGHT OF AMERICAN INTERESTS.

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON THE QUESTIONS SURROUNDING CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHABA INVASION?

A. NO, I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD.

Q. HOW ABOUT A LONG TERM LOOK AT THE EFFECT OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SHABA PROVINCE. HAVE YOU MADE ANY DETERMINATION YET ON WHAT EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE ON THE ECONOMIC ABILITY OF SHABA PROVINCE TO PRODUCE OR AT LEAST IS PRODUCTION NOW OFF AS SOME PEOPLE REPORT, FOR SIX MONTHS -- PERHAPS TWO YEARS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER ON THAT.

Q. ANYTHING ON YOUR STUDY OF THE RESTRAINTS?

A. WELL, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW TO OFFER YOU. WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, I STAND BY. THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE LEGISLATIVE RESTRAINTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ABILITY TO CONDUCT THE FOREIGN POLICY AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE POLICY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ABROAD. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT REVIEW. THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW. THERE ARE A GREAT NUMBER OF STATUTES WHICH HAVE BEEN WRITTEN OVER THE YEARS

WHICH WE ARE NOW STUDYING AND WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE CONGRESS -- WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE NEW COMMITTEE WHICH APPARENTLY IS ABOUT TO BE SET UP IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE WILL BE WORKING WITH SENATOR BYRD'S STAFF AMONG OTHERS IN THE SENATE, TO SEE WHAT MAKES SENSE AND WHAT DOESN'T; WHAT MIGHT BE OUT OF DATE; WHAT SHOULD BE RETAINED IN THE PRESENT

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LEGISLATION -- AND THAT PROCESS IS ONGOING AND WE HAVE
NOT REACHED ANY CONCLUSIONS YET.
CHRISTOPHER

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